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January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

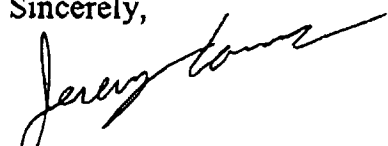
Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

For the past three years, Microsoft and the Department of Justice have been immersed in antitrust hearings in the federal courts. Recently, a settlement was reached that thoroughly addresses the antitrust infringements Microsoft committed and proposes a solution to the dilemma that presented itself at the case's inception. Microsoft will, under the terms of the settlement, be required to adjust its policies and programs in favor of its competitors, to facilitate interoperability and prevent retaliatory behavior or monopolistic contracts.

Six months of round-the-clock negotiation resulted in a comprehensive settlement, the terms of which not only address Microsoft's antitrust violations, but also extend to products and procedures not found to be unlawful by the Court of Appeals. Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose interfaces integral to the Windows operating system for use by competing software producers. This is an unprecedented requirement in antitrust settlements. Moreover, Microsoft has agreed to provide third parties acting under the terms of the settlement with a license to intellectual property rights that would otherwise be infringed. Microsoft's compliance with the agreement will be overseen by a three-person committee of software engineering experts, and any third party which feels that Microsoft is not acting in accordance with the terms of the settlement is free to lodge a formal complaint with the technical committee, a Microsoft Compliance officer, any of the plaintiff states, or the Department of Justice.

I do not believe that, with this settlement available, Microsoft remains culpable in the antitrust suit. The remaining litigious plaintiff states should not be permitted to take advantage of Microsoft's current vulnerability. I urge you, Mr. Ashcroft, to allow the settlement to stand.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Carver